

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
BNT 530 New Testament Introduction - Fall 2010

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Office: Room 203¹
Open-Door Office Hours:
W 10:00 AM -1:00 PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the content and background of the New Testament, including the critical issues involved in the discipline of New Testament Introduction.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Outline and describe the historical background of the New Testament, including political realities, social structures, religious and intellectual movements, and issues in both the Hellenistic-Roman and the Jewish milieus.
2. Identify and describe the various methods/approaches to New Testament interpretation, their goals, presuppositions and general practice; and evaluate them by their contributions and limitations for New Testament exegesis.
3. Be conversant in the primary introductory issues of major NT portions as well as individual books, understanding various points of view and being able to intelligently defend their own.
4. Interact intelligently with the writings on the NT of contemporary authors and scholars.
4. Realize an integration of the technical information and arguments of modern NT scholarship with a living Pentecostal faith, and thus to further edify and empower the Body of Christ.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. The New Testament in a contemporary translation.
2. Burge, Gary M., Lynn H. Cohick, and Gene L. Green. *The New Testament in Antiquity: A Survey of the New Testament Within Its Cultural Contexts*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.
ISBN-13 978-0-310-24495-0 [458 pages]

¹You may call with questions or may schedule an appointment to meet either in person on campus or for a telephone appointment. I would be happy to serve your needs, even outside of class questions.

Students can come and go without an appointment during Open-Door Office Hours. To have my undivided attention, schedule appointments at least 24 hours in advance. For telephone appointments, the student calls in; for in-person appointments, please knock when you arrive.

3. Elwell, Walter A., and Robert W. Yarbrough, eds. *Readings From the First-Century World: Primary Sources for New Testament Study*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
ISBN 0-8010-2157-X (paper) [200 pages]
4. "NT Pod" Podcast on iTunesU, by Mark Goodacre, Ph.D., Associate Professor of New Testament, Department of Religion, Duke University

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

1. Cahill, Thomas. *Desire of the Everlasting Hills: The World Before and After Jesus. Hinges of History Series*. New York: Anchor, 2001.
2. deSilva, David A. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Contexts, Methods, and Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 2004.

REQUIREMENTS

During the semester each student is expected to:

1. **Attend** class regularly.
 - As per AGTS' attendance policy, missing more than 20% of class sessions (i.e., in this class a *third* absence) results in automatic failure.
2. **Read** weekly selections from the NT and other primary and secondary readings as per course schedule in advance of coming to class.
 - Be prepared for a short *quiz* on the readings for any session.
 - Be prepared to *participate* in class discussion.
3. **Listen** to the assigned "NTPod" podcast each week. *Make an online post* once a month on the NT Pod Discussion Forum on the Student Portal interacting academically with the information.
 - a. Students must make *2 original posts* (of about 100 words).
 - b. Students must make *1 secondary post* (of about 50 words).
 - Write in formal English. You are graded both on depth of content and quality of writing. Make a point and prove it.
4. **Write** two short papers (ten-pages of content) in Turabian form.
 - a. One on the Dead Sea Scrolls and their significance;
 - b. One on a NT topic or issue of your choice.
5. **Take an examination** on the reading, class discussions, podcasts, and forum discussions.
6. **Present** the findings of your research to the class in an interesting, creative fashion.
7. **Be on time:**
 - Late or makeup quizzes are *not* given,
 - Late assignments are docked *one letter per day*.
 - *No incomplete grades are given.*²
 - Papers are welcomed early.

²In the case of a serious emergency, contact the professor in advance of the due date. An exception may be permitted to grant an extension, but such may be at a one-letter penalty or more.

RECORD OF SCORES:

Keep a record of your scores so that you will know at any point in the semester how well you are doing.

I. WEEKLY QUIZZES

(10 @ 2.5%, i.e., 10 points per Quiz)

1	_____	/10			
2	_____	/10			
3	_____	/10			
4	_____	/10			
5	_____	/10			
6	_____	/10			
7	_____	/10			
8	_____	/10			
9	_____	/10	=		
10	_____	/10		_____ /100 points	20%

II. NT POD DISCUSSION FORUM POSTS

(3 @ 2.5 - 5%, i.e., 10-20 points each.)

1	_____	/20			
			(original post)		
2	_____	/20			
			(original post)		
3	_____	/10	(secondary post)		
				_____ /50 points	10%

III. PROJECT PAPERS & PRESENTATION

(3 @ 12.5-25%, i.e., 50-100 points each)

1	_____	/100			
2	_____	/100			
3	_____	/50		_____ /250 points	50%

IV. EXAMINATION (1 @ 20%, i.e., 100 points)

	_____	/100 points			20%
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TOTAL SCORE _____ **/500 points**

PERCENTAGE SCORE: _____ **FINAL GRADE:** _____

DETAILED COURSE SCHEDULE

Session (Number, Focus, and Date)	Assignments Due
1. Course Introduction (8/24) Syllabus, Schedule, Assignments, Projects, and Presentations	BCG ³ – ch. 1; NTPod ⁴ 1
<i>(No class 8/31 - Professor teaching AGTS Module in Orlando)</i>	
2. Background (9/7) Historical Setting Jesus' Jewish Homeland Mediterranean World of Paul	BCG – ch. 2; EY ⁵ – ch. 2; NTP 9 BCG – ch. 3; EY – chs. 1, 3, 4, 5 BCG – ch. 4;
3. Sources and Jesus (9/14) Sources; Literary Criticism Story of Jesus; His Teachings	BCG – ch. 5; EY – ch. 6; NTP 3 BCG – chs. 6, 7
<i>(Day of Renewal - no class 9/21)</i>	
4. Gospels (9/28) Matthew; Mark; Luke; John	BCG – chs. 8, 9, 10, 11; NTP 5 PROJECT TOPIC CHOICE DUE!
5. Acts; Paul; His Letters (A) (10/5) Galatians; 1 & 2 Thessalonians;	BCG – chs. 12, 13; EY – ch. 7; NTP 6 BCG – chs. 14, 15
6. Paul's Letters (B) (10/12) 1 & 2 Corinthians; Romans	BCG – chs. 16, 17, 18; EY – ch. 8; NTP 12
7. Dead Sea Scrolls Seminar (A) (10/13 – time and place TBD)	NTP 7
8. Dead Sea Scrolls Seminar (B) (10/14 – time and place TBD)	NTP 11
<i>(No class 10/26 – replaced by Dead Sea Scrolls Seminar)</i>	

³BCG = Burge, Cohick, and Green, *NT in Antiquity*.

⁴ NTP = NT Pod podcast. Available through iTunesU or directly from the Mark Goodacre's "podacre. blogspot.com" website: <http://podacre.blogspot.com/search?updated-max=2009-07-17T00%3A24%3A00-04%3A00&max-results=7>.

⁵EY = Elwell and Yarbrough, *Readings From the First-Century World*.

Session (Number, Focus, and Date)	Assignments Due
<i>(No class first half of session 11/2: our class attends Chapel 2:00-3:15 PM)</i>	
9. Paul's Letters (C) (11/2 3:30-4:45) Ephesians & Colossians Philippians & Philemon; Pastoral Epistles	BCG – ch. 19; EY – ch. 9; NTP 2 BCG – ch. 20 BCG – ch. 21 <i>DEAD SEA SCROLLS PAPER DUE!</i>
10. Exam (11/9)	NTP 14
11. General Epistles (11/16) James; Hebrews; 1-3 John; Jude	BCG – chs. 22-24; EY – ch. 10; NTP 13
12. John's Letters & Apocalypse (11/23) Epistles of John; Revelation	BCG – chs. 22-24; EY – ch. 10; NTP 8 <i>PROJECT PAPER DUE!</i>
13. Student Presentations (11/30)	NTP 10
14. Student Presentations (12/7)	

List of Mark Goodacre's First Season of NT Pod Podcasts
(He has several seasons of podcast, and even extended-length podcasts.)
<http://podacre.blogspot.com/> (Keep going back to "older posts.")

NT Pod 1: Matthew's Genealogy

5:53 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke The first episode of the NT Pod begins at the beginning of the canonical New Testament and discusses Matt. 1.1-17 (Matthew's Genealogy). It is six minutes long.

NT Pod 2: Paul the letter speaker

6:42 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke The second episode of the NT Pod explores how Paul wrote his letters -- by dictating to a scribe. It is just under seven minutes long.

NT Pod 3: What is "Redaction"?

8:29 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke The third episode of the NT Pod begins with the use of the term "redaction" in the recent publication of British MPs' expenses; it then explores the use of the term in New Testament studies. It is eight and a half minutes long.

NT Pod 4: Does 1 Cor. 11.15 refer to a "testicle"?

The fourth episode of the NT Pod discusses Troy Martin's intriguing translation of 1 Corinthians 11.15 as "For her hair is given to her instead of a testicle". It is six and a half minutes long.

NT Pod 5: Simon Peter in Mark's Gospel

7:51 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke The fifth episode of the NT Pod discusses Mark's depiction of Simon Peter and the disciples, noting the use of the language of the skandalon or "stumbling block" with respect to the idea of the crucified Christ. It is just under eight minutes long.

NT Pod 6: Resurrection and After-life in Paul

9:37 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 6 of the NT Pod discusses Paul's view of Resurrection and the After-life. Are there contradictions between his earlier and later views? Did his mind change? It is nine and a half minutes long.

NT Pod 7: Simon Peter in Matthew's Gospel

8:35 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 7 of the NT Pod discusses Simon Peter in Matthew's Gospel, suggesting that Matthew develops Mark's portrayal of Simon Peter as the character for whom "Christ crucified" is a skandalon ("stumbling block").

NT Pod 8: The Alternative Number of the Beast

9:49 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke NT Pod 8 discusses the famous number of the beast, 666, in Revelation 13:18, and an early variant, 616. It is nine and a half minutes long.

NT Pod 9: Jesus' Genealogy in Luke's Gospel

9:08 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 10 of the NT Pod discusses the Genealogy of Jesus in Luke's Gospel. It is nine minutes long.

NT Pod 10: Did the Apostle Paul have a sense of humor?

10:50 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 10 of the NT Pod asks "Did the Apostle Paul have a sense of humour?". It is ten and a half minutes long.

NT Pod 11: Wealth and Poverty in the Gospel of Luke

9:11 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke The NT Pod episode 11 discusses Wealth and Poverty in the Gospel of Luke. It is nine minutes and ten seconds long.

NT Pod 12: Junia: the First Woman Apostle?

8:08 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 12 of the NT Pod discusses Junia: the First Woman Apostle? It is just over eight minutes long.

NT Pod 13: Mary Magdalene: the First Woman Apostle

12:36 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 13 of the NT Pod discusses Mary Magdalene, the First Woman Apostle. It is twelve minutes long.

NT Pod 14: Paul as "Apostle": The Controversy

12:27 6/23/18 Mark Goodacre Duke Episode 14 of the NT Pod discusses early controversies over whether or not Paul should be described as "apostle". It is twelve minutes long.